

## **Decisions Summary Document**

2013 Interim Councils Coordination Committee Meeting

February 20-21, 2013

Silver Spring, Maryland

Decision summary statements listed below for this Councils Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting are listed under the agenda topic title as listed in the final agenda, shown at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg\\_svcs/Councils/ccc\\_2013/Agenda.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Councils/ccc_2013/Agenda.htm).

### **Councils/Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Endangered Species Act Working Group Update**

The CCC decided to continue participation in the joint working group process, agreeing with the working group Chair's suggestion to try to convene a face-to-face meeting of the working group the week of the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3. The CCC also placed further consideration of this topic on the agenda for the May, 2013 annual meeting.

### **Council Records Retention, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and Meeting Guidance**

The CCC considered the NMFS presentations and scheduled consideration of the CCC Terms of Reference document at the May, 2013 annual meeting.

### **Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference**

The CCC tasked Don McIsaac with refining the approach for the May 7, 2013 morning session tentatively scheduled for a Regional Councils round robin presentation, to possibly include other speakers, and coordinating with the individual Councils on their respective responsibilities.

### **Update on Inspector General Report on MSA Rulemaking**

Via motion<sup>1</sup>, the CCC decided to form a subcommittee to interact with NMFS staff to more fully understand and discuss NMFS proposals for an Action Plan response to the six recommendations in the Phase I Inspector General Report on MSA Rulemaking. In advance of a subcommittee meeting, NMFS staff would provide preliminary draft language regarding details of the draft Action Plan elements, including particularly the process and elements of revisions in compliance protocols for the conflict of interest declaration requirements in the MSA. The CCC decided to schedule further consideration of this matter at the May, 2013 annual meeting.

### **Electronic Monitoring**

The CCC tasked Kitty Simonds with convening the Electronic Monitoring Workgroup and coordinating a meeting consistent with the 2012 annual meeting outcome decision, preparatory to a discussion to be scheduled for the May, 2013 annual meeting.

### **Fisheries Allocation**

Towards a goal of identifying a process to develop an orderly, Council-level review of catch allocations, NMFS discussed their final contracted report on marine fishery allocation issues and agreed to provide written preliminary draft discussion ideas for the advance Briefing Book of the

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<sup>1</sup> Eric Olson, Chair of the North Pacific Council, moved and Lee Anderson, Vice Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Council seconded the following: "I move that the CCC form a subgroup to provide recommendations and input to the Agency while they develop their Action Plan response to the Inspector General Report on all six of the recommendations."

May, 2013 annual CCC meeting. The CCC scheduled an agenda item for that meeting to consider the discussion ideas and develop a plan for future actions.

### **NOAA/NOAA Fisheries Policy on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)**

The CCC had a limited discussion of two documents describing a new policy perspective on NEPA compliance for MSA actions. Because the documents were not distributed in advance of the CCC meeting and thorough review of the documents was not possible at this meeting, the CCC tasked Chris Oliver with working with the other Council Executive Directors to prepare an initial CCC written response; tasked the CCC NEPA consultation subcommittee (the Executive Directors of the North Pacific, South Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic Councils) to meet with NMFS representatives to obtain more information about changes from the status quo procedures and the associated implications with complying with MSA Section 304(i); and scheduled an agenda item for the May, 2013 annual meeting to consider the matter further.

### **Annual Council Coordination Committee Meeting Agenda**

The CCC decided to adjourn the May, 2013 by close-of-business Friday, May 10 and not meet on Saturday, May 11, which had been on the tentative schedule. The CCC reached agreement on the agenda items and tentative schedule as shown below.

<b>Annual CCC Meeting: 3/1/13 Draft Agenda</b>						
	<b><u>Monday, May 6</u></b>	<b><u>T</u></b>	<b><u>W</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, May 9</u></b>	<b><u>Friday, May 10</u></b>	<b><u>Saturday, May 11</u></b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>					ESA Transparency	
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Closed Session				Electrnc Monitoring	
<b>11:00 AM</b>	MONF 3 Updates				Alloc. Rev. Process	
<b>Noon - 1:30 PM</b>	LUNCH			LUNCH	LUNCH	
<b>1:30 PM</b>	CCC ToR			Consider MONF 3 Results	OIG Rpt Action Plan	
<b>2:30 PM</b>	Budget Matters				New NEPA Process	
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Non-CCC ESA WG meeting				More MONF 3; 2014 CCC Mtgs	
<b>5:00 PM</b>					<b>ADJOURN</b>	